

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:164

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006

OILSEED CROPS

Saroj Shri Tufani;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether any assessment has been made regarding sowing of oilseeds and pulses for the year 2006-07 in the country ;
- (b) If so, whether there has been a decline in the sowing area of the above crops for 2006-07 in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year ;
- (c) If so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the domestic demand ;
- (e) Whether the Union Government has considered any scheme to provide financial assistance to the farmers of such States; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 DUE FOR REPLY ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2006.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. As per the assessment in the 1st advance estimates for kharif crops of 2006-07, area coverage under sowing of kharif oilseeds is around 15.74 million hectares compared to 16.79 million hectares (1st advance estimates) in 2005-06. For rabi oilseeds 2006- 07, as per the reports received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 24th November, 2006, the area coverage stands at 7.48 million hectares compared to

8.16 million hectares during the corresponding period last year. The total (Kharif & Rabi) area covered under oilseeds in 2006-07 stood at 23.22 million hectares against 24.95 million hectares in 2005-06, showing a decline. This is due to shifting of some oilseeds area to pulse crops on account of less moisture availability in some States. Also, some oilseeds area has shifted to wheat crop due to prevailing high prices of wheat in the market. However, the sowing of rabi oilseeds is in momentum and coverage of more area is envisaged.

For kharif pulses, the area coverage in 2006-07 is about 10.50 million hectares compared to 10.33 million hectares in 2005-06. For rabi pulses of 2006-07, up to 24th November, 2006, the area coverage stands at 7.90 million hectares compared to 7.18 million hectares during the corresponding period last year. The total (Kharif & Rabi) area covered under pulses in 2006-07, reported so far is 18.40 million hectares against 17.51 million hectares in 2005-06. The total area covered under pulses in 2006-07 is already more than that in 2005-06 by about 9 lakh hectares.

(d): The demand supply gap in respect of edible oils was met through imports of 4.17 million tonnes in 2005-06 and 1.61 million tonnes in April to June of 2006. In respect of pulses, the gap was met through import of 1.61 million tonnes in 2005-06 and 0.43 million tonnes during April to June of 2006.

(e)&(f) : With a view to providing financial assistance to the oilseeds and pulses growing States, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored 'Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize' (ISOPOM). Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for purchase of various inputs.